

their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence. The answer, in my opinion, should be none. No more Americans should have to lose their lives.

There are a number of proposals in Congress available today that House Republicans could bring to the floor for a vote. There is legislation available now to bolster the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. There is legislation available now to reinstate a federal ban on assault weapons. There is legislation available now to study the costs of gun violence. Yet, none of these bills have seen the light of day on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to do the people's bidding and work cooperatively with Democrats to pass meaningful and comprehensive gun reforms so that we can finally put an end to this senseless violence.

POLITICS RATHER THAN POLICY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, late Governor of Tennessee Ned McWherter used to say: If you don't want to work, you shouldn't hire out.

Speaker RYAN, if you don't want to work, if your team doesn't want to work, you shouldn't have run for office and hired out.

We are taking off for nearly 8 weeks of vacation when we should be here dealing with gun violence; when we should be dealing with the voting rights extension, which we have not done with elections coming up; when we should be dealing with the Zika virus, which threatens the health of our people; when we should be dealing with the Flint water crisis. We are leaving for 8 weeks of vacation.

This Congress started 8 years ago with terrible political priorities. Rather than policy, it was politics. MITCH MCCONNELL said their job was to see to it that Barack Obama didn't get re-elected. What did we do this week? We had hearings about Hillary Clinton and emails. That is politics. We didn't have questions of the U.S. Attorney General about voting rights or gun violence.

If you don't want to work, don't hire out. Ned McWherter was right, Speaker RYAN. You shouldn't have come here without being willing to work.

GIVE US A VOTE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, do you remember when you were kids in school, and there was this big chart, and you learned how a bill becomes a law? It told you that somebody proposes an idea, and if it gets a majority in committee, it moves on. Then it gets to the floor of the House, and if it gets a majority, it moves on to the other body. Then, if it gets a majority, it goes to the President's desk, and the President signs it.

Take that chart and throw it away because that is not what happens here. We can't get a vote on the floor on gun control. We can't get the people's will listened to. Whether it is gun control or Flint, Michigan, or the Zika virus or anything, we can't get a vote.

All we are saying to the Republican leadership is to give us a vote—up or down, win or lose. The American people want to know where their legislators stand. This is a pressing issue. For us to ignore it is shameful and disgraceful.

This young man, Seth Rich, was just murdered—a young man here who worked in politics. We owe it to his life, to his remembrance, and to all of the other victims of gun violence. We need an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago next week, a guy dressed up as the Joker barged into a theater in Aurora, Colorado, and killed 12 and wounded about 58 others. One of those killed was a young sports reporter named Jessica Ghawi—4 years ago.

Have we had one hearing on gun violence? Have we had one vote on gun violence in 4 years? No. The Republican majority has blocked every effort at just reasonable, sensible things like background checks, or, if you are a terrorist, you don't get a gun. Have we had one vote? Have we had one hearing? No, but people are dying—5 officers last week and 49 people in Orlando the month before that.

We need a hearing. The Republican majority has taken off for 7 weeks. These things have to be addressed. We are not going away. The subject is not going away. It is time for a vote. It is time for a hearing. It is not time for a 7-week recess. Jessica Ghawi deserves more than that.

THE POWER IS IN THE PEOPLE

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am embarrassed that Congress is going home today for 2 months after having done nothing about this outrageous use of guns in America. We are going home because it is an election year. We have 2 months to be with our constituents.

I hope that all constituents will approach their elected officials and ask them, their Members of Congress, and particularly the Republicans who are holding up this vote: Are you going to vote on this in September when you come back? Are we going to enact these laws? Because, if they are not, you can withhold their vote. You have the power. The power is in the people.

Let's take back our country. Let's ask every elected official, school board

member, city council, and water board, which have jurisdiction over real estate: What have they done to enact gun legislation?

California, which is the State I am from, has taken those actions: we have banned assault weapons; we require background checks; we have waiting periods before you can buy ammunition. We have done more than any other State. Guess what? The courts have upheld this.

We can do this. This is what elected officials are asked to do—to fix things that are broken and, particularly, in a crisis.

You, the voter, take back this country. Make your elected officials respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the viewing audience.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 686

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 686.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRESS SOLVES PROBLEMS THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Members have been coming forth all afternoon, talking about the fact that our constituents are feeling great anxiety. They feel and they look to Congress, and they think there are some issues here that we can deal with in our communities.

We are going to be having some very serious and deep conversations about some of the concerns that we have, but there are a few issues that this House—the people's House—needs to deal with while our constituents are dealing in their own houses with some of the concerns that are addressed by education, by poverty, by guns.

There are too many guns in their communities. We have been hearing repeatedly that we can close the gun show loophole here in Congress, in the people's House, and we should. We can close the fact that there are people who can fly today who are on no-fly lists. We can change that in the people's House.

We have to get on this, and that is why it is discouraging when there is time—when there are hours and minutes and days—that we are not working on these issues. People look to us. They want us to solve those problems that local government cannot solve alone.